

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120866

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA GECHAFIN
APPROVED BY ARA HARYAN
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P 231548Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 120866

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTO DOMINGO 2323 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CARACAS MAY 22

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2323

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, DR, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN-DOMINICAN DIALOGUE FALTERS

REF: SD 2280

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S FORTHRIGHT ATTACK ON HIGH OIL
PRICES AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP IN THE POORER
COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND HIS CALL FOR OIL PRODUCERS
TO REDUCE THEIR PRICES (REFTEL) WAS REBUTTED BY VENEZUELAN
FINANCE MINISTER HURTADO IN COURSE OF LATTER'S SPEECH TO
IDB DELEGATES MAY 20. HURTADO REJECTED THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE OIL
PRICES AND ATTRIBUTED THE LDC'S PROBLEMS TO INFLATION AND
RECESSION IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD PRACTICALLY FORGOTTEN THEIR PROMISES
OF COOPERATION WITH LDC'S. HE CALLED FOR THEM TO ASSUME
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PAGE 02 STATE 120866

THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THEM TO
THE LDC'S

2. TODAY'S EL SOL REPORTS THAT ON MAY 20 A GROUP OF DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MET SECRETLY WITH HURTADO TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF VENEZUELAND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT. AT LEAST TWO POINTS WERE COVERED - SPECIAL PRICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OIL SOLD TO THE DR AND VENEZUELAN ASSISTANCE IN OIL EXPLORATION HERE. THE PAPER REPORTS A COMPLETE FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT. AMONG THE DOMINICANS REPORTEDLY PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGE WERE TECHNICAL SECRETARY LOCKWARD, SECRETARY OF FINANCE SELIMAN, EXPORT PROMOTION CENTER DIRECTOR PERICHE VIDAL AND SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS ALSINA. IF REPORT IS TRUE, FRUSTRATION OF THIS INFLUENTIAL GROUP BY THE VENEZUELAND FINANCE MINISTER MAY HAVE LASTING EFFECTS ON DR-VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ADDING TO THE DOMINICAN DISENCHANTMENT ALREADY TACITLY EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, MEETINGS, PRICES, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE120866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA GECHAFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0932
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750522/aaaaatqp.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SD 2280
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN-DOMINICAN DIALOGUE FALTERS
TAGS: PFOR, DR, VE, IDB, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN), (HURTADO, HECTOR)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006